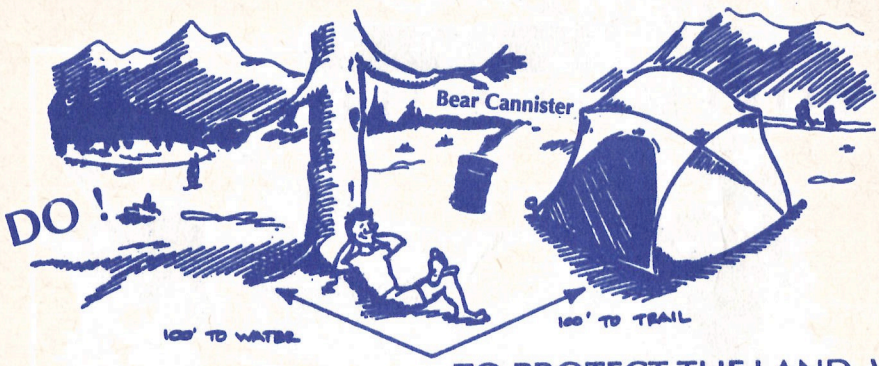
Welcome TO THE YOSEMITE WILDERNESS

In 1984, Congress provided special designation for Yosemite's backcountry, "...to secure for the American public ... an enduring resource of **wilderness**," a place where nature and its community of life are unchanged by humans, which retains its primeval character and is managed to preserve its natural condition.

Protection of this land, however, will never be gained simply by wilderness managers issuing a set of rules and regulations to be enforced. It must come with the user's love and understanding of wilderness. This information is provided to help you understand what **you** must do to help protect this priceless resource for present and future generations.

You will find nature on its own in Yosemite's wilderness — natural fires may be encountered, and hazards such as falling rock, high water stream crossings, and sudden stormy weather can occur at any time. These are all a part of a wilderness experience. You may also encounter some human-influenced hazards, such as contaminated water and animals trying to get your dinner. With your help and care, we can reduce these human changes and preserve our wild heritage.

REMEMBER, YOU DETERMINE THE QUAL



TO PROTECT THE LAND, WATER, A

BEFORE YOU

DO plan your trip to allow plenty of time for rest, campsite selection, and food storage.

DO choose a destination four trail miles from Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point, Hetch Hetchy or Wawona, or one trail mile from any road. Camping is prohibited in the Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River.

DO keep group size to 15 people or less, or 8 people maximum for any cross country hiking more than 1/4 mile off any trail.

ON THE TI

DO stay on the trail. Walk quietly in single file and you may see more wild animals.

DO give right of way to stock. Stand still on the uphill side of the trail to allow them to pass.

IN CAM

DO camp in a well established site at least 100' from any water source in an area screened from trails. Camp away from fragile, untrampled vegetation.

DO limit your use of wood fires. Campfires are not allowed above 9600' due to wood scarcity and potential resource damage. Below 9600', they may be built in existing fire rings. Burn only dead and down wood.

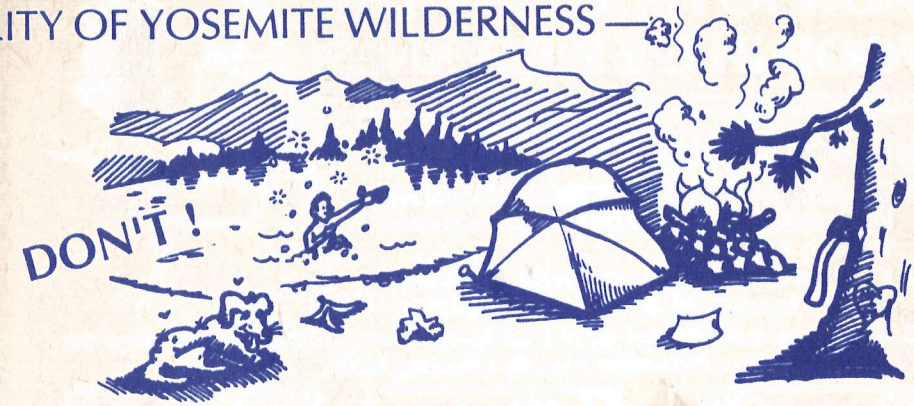
DO protect water quality. Bury any human waste 6" deep and at least 100' from water sources, camp areas or trails. Pack out all toilet paper. Do all washing 100' from water. Purify any drinking water by boiling 3-5 minutes, or using a giardia-rated filter or iodine based chemical purifier.

HOW TO PROTECT YOSEMITE'

1. There are only black bears in Yosemite, regardless of color. Information in this brochure does not apply to more aggressive grizzly or brown bears.
2. Bears are clever and very persistent, and grow more so each year. Take the time to set up your camp properly, and keep your camp area clean. Careless camping and lazy or improper food storage often results in dead bears and/or nuisance animals. **DO YOUR PART!**
3. Store food and odorous items by using one of the methods shown on the back of this brochure. Sleep 20-30' from where you store items so you can hear the bear and scare it away as quickly as possible. Keep some small stones or pine cones available to throw. Hang pots and pans from counter balanced food bags as an alarm
4. Yosemite black bears are basically timid. If a bear approaches your camp, **act immediately** to

VIOLATION OF TITLE 36 CFR REGUL

ITY OF YOSEMITE WILDERNESS —



AND WILDLIFE IN YOSEMITE...

UR TRIP

DON'T forget to pick up a free wilderness permit. They are required for all overnight wilderness use.

DON'T bring your pets or weapons with you. Yosemite is a wildlife preserve. Remember, it is the animals' home — you are the visitor, and pets are not welcome.

DON'T bring too much — repackage to eliminate excess food, foil, glass, etc. Leave no trace in the wilderness!

RAIL

DON'T walk off the trail. Cutting switchbacks, "short cuts," or walking outside a wet trail causes hazardous conditions and trail destruction. Help maintain the trail system!

DON'T bring your bicycle. Mechanized vehicles are not allowed in the wilderness.

MP

DON'T put **anything** in the water; even "biodegradable" soap pollutes.

DON'T waste wood and important soil nutrients by building large bonfires.

DON'T build rock walls, bough beds, new fire rings, trenches, or campsite "improvements."

DON'T burn trash. Pack out **everything** you carry in.

DON'T let the animals get your food. Follow instructions on the back to protect their wilderness and your food.

S BEARS AND YOUR FOOD

scare it away. Yell and make as much noise as possible. Throw small stones or pine cones toward the bear (don't hit other campers!). Make more noise. You may need to do this more than once, but the more vigorously and longer you do it the first time, the less likely the need to repeat. Multiple people doing these activities greatly increases your effectiveness.

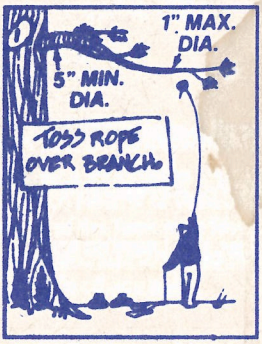
5. Always maintain a safe distance. Do not advance on a bear which appears to feel threatened or cornered by you. Do not attempt to retrieve food or gear from a bear until the items are abandoned.
6. Food taken by bears is still your responsibility. Please clean up and report all bear damage to a ranger. **Improper food storage can result in the killing of conditioned bears, personal injury and/or property loss. KEEP YOSEMITE WILD!**

LATIONS MAY RESULT IN A FINE!

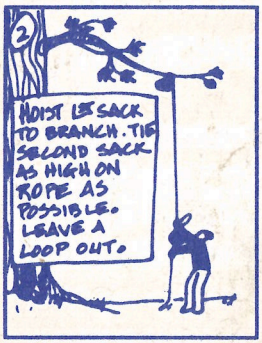
HOW TO PROPERLY STORE FOOD IN THE WILDERNESS

Be prepared to store food in one of these three ways:

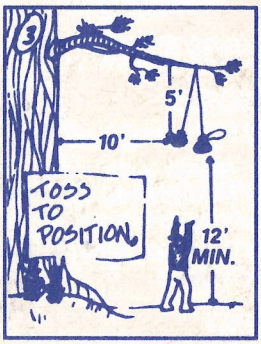
1. **We strongly recommend the use of bear-resistant food canisters**. This is the best food storage method currently available.
2. If you are unable to use a bear resistant canister use bear boxes, poles or cables where available.
3. The counter-balance method of food storage is only effective if you follow the guidelines below. **Remember it is only a delaying tactic.**



Find tree with a live and down sloping branch. Toss as far out on branch as will support weight of food, not cub.



Have enough slack in rope to go completely over branch and back to ground.



Leave a loop of remaining rope for retrieval; put excess in sack. To retrieve, hook loop with long stick and pull slowly down.

- Use quality 1/8" to 1/4" cord, and heavy duty nylon stuff sacks to store food. Make sure bags are evenly weighted with not more than 8-10 pounds each.
- Do not tie rope off to another tree. Make sure no solid objects or branches are under food for the bear to stand on.
- Consider even proper food storage as a delaying tactic only! You must defend your food when a bear comes into the area.

REGARDLESS OF YOUR FOOD STORAGE METHOOD:

- Always store garbage, cosmetics, toothpaste, soap, or anything with any odor with food.
- Store items properly at all times except when preparing what is needed for your meal.
- Leave empty pack on the ground with all pockets and flaps open. Store water bottles out of sight with cooking gear.

IN YOUR VEHICLE:

- **Never** leave food or garbage in your vehicle at trailheads. Bears can break into cars if they see or smell food. Plan ahead, don't bring excess food. Items which resemble food or food containers (sacks, ice chests, cans, etc.) left in cars at trailheads should be stored in the trunk or hidden from view.

DON'T BE BEAR CARELESS!

NOTE: THESE REGULATIONS ARE THE BEST METHODS TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE CHANCES OF PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE. HOWEVER, BEAR DAMAGE AND CONFRONTATIONS ARE STILL POSSIBLE EVEN WHEN ALL THE GUIDELINES ARE FOLLOWED.